

## ROSELLINIA OVALIS (ELL.) SACC.

BY WILLIAM A. RILEY

Mr. Ellis has described\* under the name *Sphaeria ovalis*, a pyrenomycete occurring on *Artemisia* in Utah. Specimens were issued as No. 896 of N. A. F. A careful comparison of these with specimens of *Rosellinia pulveracea* (Ehr.) shows no essential differences and has led me to question the validity of the species.

In North American Pyrenomycetes, Mr. Ellis says regarding the new species: "Closely allied to *R. pulveracea*, differing principally in its perithecia." A careful study of the two species reveals individual perithecia of each which correspond perfectly. Those of *R. pulveracea* are in some cases subovate, while, on the other hand, those of *R. ovalis* are sometimes subglobose. Even in the descriptions there is not brought out any marked distinction. As an aid to comparison, I tabulate Ellis's descriptions of the two species:

<i>Rosellinia ovalis</i> (Ell.) Sacc.	<i>Rosellinia pulveracea</i> (Ehr.) Fckl.
1. Perithecia gregarious or sub-caespitose.	1. Perithecia densely gregarious, often forming continuous crustaceous layer and sometimes scattered.
2. Ovate.	2. Ovate-globose.
3. Rough.	3. Minutely tubercular-roughened.
4. 250-300 $\mu$ in diameter.	4. One-third mm. in diameter.
5. Ostiolum obtusely papilliform.	5. Ostiolum papilliform.
6. Asci cylindrical, 60-65 $\mu$ $\times$ 6 $\mu$ .	6. Asci cylindrical 60-70 $\mu$ $\times$ 10-12 $\mu$ .
7. Stipe 15-20 $\mu$ .	7. Stipe 20-30 $\mu$ .
8. Spores short-elliptical to oblong, 8-12 $\mu$ $\times$ 5-7 $\mu$ .	8. Spores elliptical, 8-15 $\mu$ $\times$ 6-9 $\mu$ .

The above table shows some little distinction in size of asci

\* Bull. Torr. Club, 8: 125. 1881.

and spores. The unimportance of these characters, unless very marked, is quite generally recognized by workers on this group and has been frequently emphasized. An instance is afforded by a series of measurements of asci and spores of *R. pulveracea* from the various exsiccati. In these Mr. Ellis found a variation from  $60-70 \mu \times 8-10 \mu$  in asci and from  $6-8 \mu \times 5-6 \mu$  to  $10-12 \mu \times 7-9 \mu$  in spores. My measurements of the same species show a variation from  $70 \times 7 \mu$  to  $90 \times 13 \mu$  in asci; from  $10 \times 7 \mu$  to  $15 \times 10 \mu$  in spores. For *R. ovalis*, Ellis's measurements, as seen above, are  $60-65 \mu \times 6 \mu$  for asci;  $8-12 \mu \times 5-7 \mu$  for spores. I find asci as large as  $85 \times 7 \mu$ , spores  $10-12 \mu \times 6-7 \mu$ . From a comparison of these figures it may be seen that on the basis of asci and spores we cannot even approximate a separation of the two species. It is my belief that *Rosellinia ovalis* (Ell.) is, at most, but a variety of *R. pulveracea* (Ehr.).

It should be noted that Saccardo attributes this species to New Jersey, whereas, it has so far been reported only from Utah. Misled by the statement "on sage-brush" he doubtfully refers to the host as *Salvia*.

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## NEWS ITEMS

The sixth annual winter meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club was held in Burlington, on January 25th and 26th. Fourteen papers were presented.

"*The Gamophyllous*, a monthly magazine devoted to plant life in field, forest and garden," is the title of a recently established periodical. It is edited and published by Mr. Harry A. Bird of Plainfield, New Jersey.

An interesting paper entitled "An Ecological Study of the New Jersey Strand Flora," by Dr. John W. Harshberger was issued on December 31, 1900. It is extracted from the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Dr. David Griffiths, who received his advanced degree from